REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 16 and 17, and add claim 18. Thus, claims 1-18 are pending in this application Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter because no hardware is defined. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

There is no requirement that a method claim recite structure under §101. In particular, the PTO's interim guidelines for examination under §101 printed in the November 22, 2005 Official Gazette Notices clearly state that "the tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must ... be tied to a particular machine." Rather, the guidelines affirm that the tangible requirement only requires that "the claim must produce a real-world result." Finally, the guidelines define a real-world result as "a practical method or means of producing a beneficial result or effect." Thus, according to the PTO's interim guidelines for examination under §101 a method claim need only produce a beneficial result or effect to satisfy the "tangible" requirement of §101.

Claims 1-15 provide a beneficial result or effect in that they determine whether a computer-storable expression matches a filter, for example, to help solve recurrent string problems (see, e.g., page 1, line 21 - page 3, line 10).

Because computer structure need not be inserted into method claims to be considered statutory subject matter under §101 and claim 1-15 produce a beneficial result or effect, claims 1-15 recite statutory subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6487,566 to Sundaresan. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.
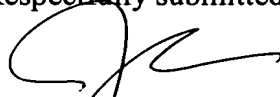
Sundaresan fails to disclose the arrangement of features recited in either of claims 16 and 17 with "the first programming language being different from the second programming language." In particular, as correctly recognized by the Office Action on page 4, Sundaresan only discloses using a single programming language, namely XML. Thus, Sundaresan cannot reasonably be considered to disclose "the first programming language being different from the second programming language," as recited in claim 16 and 17.

Because Sundaresan fails to disclose "the first programming language being different from the second programming language," claims 16 and 17 are patentable over Sundaresan. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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